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MONITORING OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

System-Wide Action Plan and coordination of drug control activities in the United Nations system

Report of the Secretariat

Summary

The conclusions of the coordination segment of the session of the Economic and Social Council held in 1994 were communicated to all heads of agencies in the United Nations system, in preparation for the first session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to be held in 1995, with, for the first time, an item on drug control on its agenda. In preparation for the meeting, the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) met individually with most heads of agencies, and UNDCP prepared, with input from the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control, a background paper outlining ways to enhance coordination in the system. The Subcommittee continued its trend toward more substance-oriented work, including the preparation of technical papers and the consideration of joint programming on specific issues. As an updated and revised United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control was submitted to the General Assembly in 1994, brief summaries on progress in implementation are provided from seven agencies. The System-Wide Action Plan will henceforth be updated on a biennial basis, in keeping with the wishes of the Assembly.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present document describes the work being done to enhance coordination of drug control work within the United Nations system, including the follow-up to the conclusions of the Economic and Social Council at the coordination segment of its regular session held in 1994. Information is provided on the current status of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (SWAP), including brief reports from cooperating agencies on their progress in its implementation. Particular attention is given to the preparations for the first session of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) to be held in 1995, for the first time with an item on international drug abuse control on its agenda.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

2. ACC included the issue of international drug abuse control as an important item on the agenda of its session to be held at Vienna from 27 February-1 March 1995.

3. In preparation for the meeting, the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) addressed a letter in September 1994 to all ACC members transmitting the conclusions of the debate on drug control by the coordination segment of the 1994 regular session of the Economic and Social Council held in 1994. This was followed by individual meetings with most heads of agencies, during which the Executive Director outlined suggestions as to how coordination might be improved in matters relating to drug control.

4. Those suggestions were reflected in a background paper prepared by UNDCP to form the basis for the debate in the meeting of ACC. Prior to the submission of the background paper to the ACC Consultative Committee on Programme and Operational Questions in January 1995, it was circulated to members of the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control for comment and input.

5. The paper drew particular attention to the numerous linkages between drug control and the areas of responsibility of other agencies. In particular, it highlighted interrelationships between drug control issues and socio-economic development. Such information was intended to facilitate the incorporation by relevant agencies of the subject of drug control in their own programmes of work, as called for on several occasions by the Council and the General Assembly, most recently in Assembly resolution 49/168 of 23 December 1994.

6. The paper also set forth ways in which inter-agency cooperation could be enhanced, including suggestions emerging from the conclusions of the coordination segment of the Council. Particular importance was attached to the concept of coordination "from the bottom up", involving the forging of close working relationships between UNDCP specialists and those in other organizations working in areas related to drug control. Similarly, direct cooperation at the country level, through local inter-agency working groups convened by the Resident Coordinator, was already proving to be a constructive approach to improved coordination and to a more productive dialogue with Governments.

II. SUBCOMMITTEE ON DRUG CONTROL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

7. The ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control held its main annual meeting at Vienna from 5 to 7 September 1994, with nine agencies represented. A copy of the agenda for the meeting is annexed to the present report. The Subcommittee continued to devote a growing portion of its time to the

discussion of substantive issues. In that connection, three technical papers were examined by the meeting (two prepared by UNDCP and one by the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat). In addition, two proposals were considered (one submitted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and one by the International Labour Organization (ILO)) for multidisciplinary initiatives in specific aspects of drug control. The report of the Subcommittee has been issued as document ACC/1994/9.

III. UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

8. As SWAP has been the subject of a rather complex development process, it is worth clarifying its current situation and the anticipated process for its future evolution. The first version of SWAP was approved in 1990. An update was not made in 1992 as envisaged, since the Assembly had requested that SWAP be revised to incorporate agency-specific plans. Pending completion of the revised version, an interim update of SWAP was issued in 1993 (A/48/178). The agency-specific plans were incorporated in the revised SWAP forwarded to the Assembly in 1994 (A/49/139). The latter, most recent, version in fact represents a significant update of the original SWAP and a return to the original timetable of updates in even-numbered years. The next update is thus required in 1996. The following sections contain material submitted by members of the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control to reflect progress in the implementation of SWAP.

A. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

9. In the first half of 1994 the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) completed the following two major research projects: Cocaine Markets and Law Enforcement; and Comparative Study for the Standardization of the Indicators and the Methodologies of Toxicological Analysis in the Field of Cocaine Abuse, conducted within the framework of the joint WHO/UNICRI follow-up activities to the seminar, "Cocaine Today".

10. The Integrated Programme on Drug Abuse Prevention for the Hungarian Educational System entered the second year of activities. A one-week training course was held at Budapest in June 1994 as a follow-up to a two-week meeting held at Rome in 1993. Training materials (information brochures and a three-volume compendium for trainers) prepared by UNICRI experts have been translated into Hungarian and adapted to national needs.

11. A project for the training of trainers for public treatment services was designed. The preparatory phase was to be completed in January 1995, to be followed by three pilot courses.

12. The computerization of the clearing-house on drug abuse, which is a specific section of the UNICRI documentation centre, has been a major endeavour throughout the year. Specialized software has been developed, and an ad hoc thesaurus to meet UNICRI needs is being prepared.

B. International Labour Organization

13. The two-pronged ILO programme of prevention in the workplace and rehabilitation in the community was implemented through a cluster of projects in collaboration with Governments and organizations of employers and workers. In support of the ILO Active Partnership Policy, a manual on drug-related issues was prepared and distributed among the ILO multidisciplinary teams and field offices. At the policy level, a draft code of practice on management of drug and alcohol problems in the workplace was distributed to member States for comment. The draft code and the comments were to be examined by a tripartite meeting of experts in January 1995.

14. A joint study of ILO and the Commission of the European Communities was completed and its findings were reviewed in 1994, with a view to its submission to an international conference in 1995. ILO also collaborated with the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse to study the economic and social cost of substance abuse.

15. The wide-ranging collaboration of ILO with UNDCP was highlighted with the signing of a new memorandum of understanding in August 1994. Dialogue was maintained on all aspects of policy and programme development. A number of joint projects at the interregional, regional and national levels were at different stages of implementation. Projects typically included assessment, staff training, programme development and evaluation.

16. Governments and non-governmental organizations in Brazil, Chile, Egypt, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Malawi, Mexico, Namibia, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe benefited from those projects and other ILO technical advisory services. ILO also actively participated in all UNDCP expert forums on demand reduction.

17. The following ongoing activities deserve special mention: the joint project undertaken by ILO, and the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNDCP to develop model programmes of drug and alcohol abuse prevention among workers and their families; the ILO/UNDCP project to develop drug and alcohol prevention programmes in the maritime industry; and the ILO/Norway project to establish resource centres for rehabilitation, workplace initiatives and community action. Another major initiative was the launching by ILO, UNDCP, the International Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations for the Prevention of Drug and Substance Abuse and the University Sains, Penang, Malaysia, of the Regional Training Programme on Addiction Rehabilitation, which conducted its first course in September 1994 with 20 participants from 14 countries of the region of Asia and the Pacific. Agreement was also reached with UNDCP to commence a programme in 1995 in central and eastern Europe to mobilize employers and workers in the prevention of substance abuse.

C. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

18. In matters related to reducing the demand and use of illegal drugs, the main strengths of FAO lie in a comprehensive approach to rural development through formal and non-formal education programmes, including activities related to alternative crop production. The experience of FAO shows that, in isolation, crop substitution is not an effective countermeasure to the production of illegal drug crops. However, the eradication of illicit drug crops and crop substitution, when combined with a number of other measures, including a firm government commitment to eradication, to marketing opportunities for substitute crops and to a comprehensive approach to rural development, have an important role to play in the reduction of the supply of illicit drugs.

19. There is a growing interest in technical assistance in drug-related non-formal educational programmes that may be initiated through agricultural extension services, in work with agricultural cooperatives, in the People's Participation Programme, in programmes involving the mass media and rural youth, and in young farmer programmes in which the hazards of drug abuse may be discussed. FAO continues to use remote sensing and satellite imagery as a method of identifying areas where illegal drug crops are grown, and to formulate and implement projects in several countries. Of particular interest to FAO are various broad areas related to the reduction of drug abuse, including: studies and agricultural sector reviews providing an analysis of the impact of illicit cultivation on rural families; preventive education programmes for rural youth and adults; international research projects on herbicidal and biological control of illicit crops; remote sensing and satellite imagery for crop identification; and crop substitution.

D. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

20. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signed a memorandum of understanding with UNDCP in April 1994 in order to strengthen collaboration in the field of drug demand reduction through education and information.

21. UNESCO efforts in the prevention of drug abuse affecting the quality of life apply to both licit and illicit drugs. Preventive education projects are implemented in-school as well as out-of-school, targeting women, children, youth and adults. The objectives are to promote awareness at the community level, and to provide life skills at the individual level and the ability to face the challenges of life. Within the framework of a joint project of UNESCO and the Commission of the European Communities, the first issue of an International Newsletter and an Annotated Bibliography of books and articles on the prevention of drug abuse, both published in English, French and Spanish, were issued and disseminated to member States, non-governmental organizations and professionals working in the field referred to.

22. UNESCO collaborates with the University of Plovdiv, Bulgaria, in the production of a videotape on preventive education in Bulgarian secondary schools, and with the African Communications Group for the production of a documentary film to educate Africans on the dangers of becoming couriers of illegal drugs from Africa to the United States of America.

23. Among its publications, the following should be noted: Prevention of Drug Abuse through Education and Information: An Interdisciplinary Responsibility within the Context of Human Development.

E. World Health Organization

24. The work of the Programme on Substance Abuse of WHO concentrated on the following three main areas: prevention, advocacy and promotion; treatment and care; and regulatory control. As of May 1994, the Programme on Substance Abuse has also been responsible for the WHO programme on tobacco or health. As a result, the work of the Programme on Substance Abuse covers all substances of abuse, and facilitates the promotion of comprehensive approaches to all problems of substance abuse. The twenty-ninth Expert Committee on Drug Dependence reviewed a number of psychoactive substances for possible scheduling, and made recommendations concerning treatment services, training, regulatory control and national policies. The joint cocaine project of WHO and UNICRI, involving the collection of data on the global extent, nature and consequences of use of coca products, was completed. During 1994, WHO commissioned a major review of international literature on the health implications of cannabis. The project, "Policies, Legislation and Programmes on Treatment and Rehabilitation for Drug and Alcohol Dependence", involved the compilation of data from 82 countries. The full report on the project was to be available in early 1995. WHO has continued to support national and regional efforts to implement drug control regulations. Among the more than 30 projects under implementation during the year were the following: WHO Study on Drug Injection and HIV Infection; Rapid Assessment of Drug Abuse in Cameroon; Promotion of a Community-based Approach to Substance Abuse Problems, with the focus on developing countries; and Preventing Fetal Effects of Substance Abuse. WHO has continued to collaborate with other international organizations and bodies, particularly UNDCP, as well as with WHO Collaborating Centres and non-governmental organizations.

F. International Maritime Organization

25. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is concerned with prevention and demand reduction, as well as with the suppression of illicit traffic. With regard to demand, the general guidelines concerning drug and alcohol abuse and its impact on the health and fitness of seafarers or

their ability to perform shipboard functions need to be periodically reviewed. It is expected that the Subcommittee on Standards of Training and Watchkeeping will develop a resolution of the IMO Assembly on the principles and guidelines concerning drug and alcohol abuse, on the basis of those circulated in 1992. IMO will continue to cooperate in the tripartite expert meetings on drug and alcohol abuse of the ILO and in the annual meetings of the joint ILO/WHO committee that considers the health of seafarers.

26. With regard to the suppression of illicit traffic, cooperation between Governments and their relevant administrations and shipowners, ship operators, shippers and shipping agents should be facilitated and advanced by all possible means. In the area of training, three seminars are scheduled to take place in 1995 in the context of the joint project of IMO and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific to facilitate international maritime traffic, including measures to combat illicit drug trafficking. As part of its ongoing efforts to build and strengthen institutions, work will continue towards the adoption of draft amendments to the annex of the Convention on the Facilitation of International Maritime Traffic,[1] the promotion of memoranda of understanding between Governments and commercial carriers as suggested by the World Customs Organization, and the improvement of cooperation between port authorities and shipowners.

G. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

27. In accordance with its mandate to promote industrialization, the activities of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in the field of drug abuse control focus on creating a techno-economic base that offers illicit crop growers a comparable income through conversion of alternative crops into high-value-added processed products. Two ongoing UNDCP-financed projects in the Chapare region of Bolivia were creating an alternative source of income to farmers engaged in coca cultivation. Eleven agro-processing industries were being rationalized, and perennial plantations of the farmers expanded. The projects enabled the former coca growers to become shareholders of the industrial ventures, and thus to participate in the value added created by the processing of their products. In cooperation with UNDCP, UNIDO also examined the medium-term prospects for industrial food-processing plants in Ucayali and Uchiza, Peru. In Pakistan, a new project concept was developed on the basis of an extensive study of the socio-economic and climatic conditions of the Dir district. The project aims at attracting private investment in the field of high-value-added food products and ingredients that could compete with illicit poppy cultivation in non-irrigated areas.

28. Another strategy adopted by UNIDO is the development of small-scale industries, based on plant resources and located in close proximity to illicit growing areas so as to reduce the migration of people to the areas concerned and prevent the spread of illicit cultivation. The implementation of three such projects was continuing.

29. UNIDO also supports national laboratories responsible for the analysis of both licit and illicit drugs. At the annual group training course held at the Medicinal Plants Research Centre at Eskisehir, Turkey, participants from 10 developing countries were trained in identifying the degree of purity of both licit and illicit drugs.

30. In order to strengthen cooperation and coordinate efforts under their respective mandates, UNDCP and UNIDO signed a memorandum of understanding on 25 October 1994.

Notes

[1]United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 591, No. 8564.

Annex

AGENDA OF THE 1994 SESSION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON DRUG CONTROL OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Global overview of the drug abuse situation by UNDCP.

3. Strategic orientation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control with a view to activating the Plan at the country and regional levels.

4. Integration of drug issues, including supply-side issues, in country strategy notes and promotion of country-level and subregional system cooperation.

5. Review of resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly and related developments from the policy-making bodies of other agencies which have a bearing on drug abuse control.

6. Review of policy issues emerging from the regional expert forums on demand reduction.

7. Presentation and discussion of papers on the themes:

   (a) Present status of knowledge of the illicit drug industry in the world;

   (b) The relationship of crime control and drug control;

   (c) Activities undertaken by UNDCP to facilitate electronic communication of drug-related information between UNDCP and Governments and thereby lowering the burden put on countries reporting to UNDCP and improving quality and timeliness.

8. New proposals:

   (a) Framework for an inter-agency programme on reducing drug demand among youth in developing countries;

   (b) ILO training programme.

9. Review of the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse.

10. 1994 NGO World Forum on Drug Demand Reduction.

11. Other business.

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION AND FUTURE WORK

Note by the Secretariat

Summary

The present document contains a note on the reconvened thirty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-ninth session and the documentation required, an overview of forthcoming meetings of its subsidiary bodies, a summary of recommendations made with respect to adequacy of documentation submitted to the Commission and a proposal that it consider national drug control plans. The Commission may wish to give new or additional policy directives to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, particularly with respect to paragraphs 2, 4, 19 and 28 to 31.

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I. RECONVENED THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

1. In accordance with the procedure described in paragraph 8 of Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 13 (XXXVI) of 7 April 1993, a reconvened session of the Commission will be held in December 1995. At the reconvened session, the Commission is expected to approve the initial programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 and the second and final revision of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP).

2. The Commission may wish to recommend to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

DRAFT DECISION ...

Reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

At its ... plenary meeting, on ... 1995, the Economic and Social Council decided that a reconvened session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should take place in December 1995 to approve the initial programme budget for the biennium 1996-1997 and the second and final revision of the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRTY-NINTH SESSION

3. In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretariat submits to the Commission the following draft provisional agenda for its thirty-ninth session, together with an indication of the documents for its consideration in respect of each item.

Provisional agenda and documentation

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Annotated provisional agenda

3. General debate and policy directives.

   [Possible core issue or issues to be determined if the Commission so wishes]

   Documentation

   Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the Programme

4. Reduction of illicit demand for drugs.

[Special issues to be identified by the Commission]

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on the world situation on drug abuse

5. Illicit drug traffic and supply, including reports from the subsidiary bodies.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on illicit drug trafficking
Reports from subsidiary bodies

6. Implementation of the international drug control treaties.

(a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director (as necessary)

(b) International Narcotics Control Board;

Documentation

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1995
Report of the International Narcotics Control Board on article 12 of the 1988 Convention

(c) Other matters arising under the international drug control conventions.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat (as necessary)

7. Monitoring of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control.

Documentation

Report of the Secretariat on the System-Wide Action Plan
Report of the Secretary-General on the Global Programme of Action

8. Administrative and budgetary matters.

Documentation

Note by the Executive Director

9. Provisional agenda for the fortieth session of the Commission and future work.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat

10. Other matters.

Documentation

(As necessary)

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission at its thirty-ninth session.

Action required by the Commission

4. The provisional agenda requires the prior approval of the Commission before being submitted to the Council. The draft provisional agenda submitted for consideration and approval by the Commission reflects the proposal that the general debate should provide an opportunity for giving policy guidance and directives to UNDCP, and that the formulation of such directives could be facilitated by focusing the general debate on one or more core issues.

III. FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODIES

5. Tables 1 and 2 list the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA) and the Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East that have been tentatively scheduled for 1995 and 1996, based on offers from potential host Governments.

Table 1. Meetings of the subsidiary bodies in 1995

Title of meeting	Date	Venue
HONLEA, Africa	September/October 1995	Kampala
HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific	Third or fourth quarter	Indonesia
HONLEA, Europe	30 January-3 February 1995	Vienna
HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean	Fourth quarter	Havana
Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East	Second quarter	Amman[a/]

[a/]Headquarters (or temporary headquarters) of regional economic commissions where meetings are held in the absence of an invitation from a Government of the region.

Table 2. Meetings of the subsidiary bodies in 1996

Title of meeting	Date	Venue
HONLEA, Africa	To be determined	Egypt
HONLEA, Asia and the Pacific	To be determined	Philippines
HONLEA, Latin America and the Caribbean	To be determined	Santiago[a]
Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East	To be determined	Amman[a]

[a] Headquarters (or temporary headquarters) of regional economic commissions where meetings are held in the absence of an invitation from a Government of the region.

Action required by the Commission

6. No specific action is required concerning the venue of meetings of the subsidiary bodies unless there are conflicting offers that have not been resolved.

IV. POLICY GUIDANCE ON DOCUMENTATION

A. Background

7. In early 1994, an independent evaluation of the reporting obligations of UNDCP to the Commission was undertaken on behalf of UNDCP. The evaluation was based primarily, but not exclusively, on documentation issued by UNDCP for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, held from 29 March to 7 April 1993.

8. Recommendations of the evaluator for implementation by UNDCP pointed to a number of changes required in order to improve the format and contents of the documents, to ensure their timely preparation and distribution, to reduce the volume of documentation, and to strengthen interaction between UNDCP and the Commission on the establishment of documentation requirements. Those recommendations were approved by the Executive Director and are being implemented by UNDCP.

9. The evaluation report also contained a number of recommendations that the Commission itself may wish to take into account in order to further improve the format and content of the documentation and to reduce its volume. Those recommendations are summarized below.

B. Summary of recommendations addressed to the Commission

10. The Commission could greatly assist the Secretariat by commenting not only on the substance or contents of a document but also on its format.

11. When requesting UNDCP to submit reports, the Commission should make it clear exactly what information it wants and for what purpose. A vaguely worded resolution may give insufficient guidance to UNDCP, since it may be open to a variety of interpretations.

12. The Commission may wish to review the relevant sections of the series of General Assembly and Council resolutions pertaining to the limitation and control of documentation. The purpose of such a review would be twofold: to relieve UNDCP of some of its heavy reporting obligations, and to achieve economies.* Specifically, the Commission is called upon:

(a) To review periodically (for example, every five years) its documentation requirements to determine which, if any, have become redundant;

(b) To keep its request for documents to the minimum compatible with the efficient conduct of its work;

(c) To keep reports on its sessions as brief as possible.

13. In reviewing its documentation requirements, the Commission may wish to distinguish between information that is desired and needed on a regular basis by Governments and information that is directly relevant to the policy-making function of the Commission. The Commission could request the Executive Director to disseminate the former regularly to Governments, but not as official documents of the Commission.

14. At its thirty-sixth session, the Commission, in the nine draft resolutions forwarded to the Council for adoption and in its own 13 resolutions, called for a total of 11 reports. The Commission may wish to examine whether any of those reports could have been disseminated directly to Governments. In that regard, it might be useful if the Commission were to consider requesting its expanded bureau to examine all draft resolutions that call for reports, to determine whether some of them might be more usefully disseminated directly to Governments. If so, the wording of relevant parts of resolutions might be changed to read as follows: "Requests the Executive Director to report to Governments ... ."

15. In exercising its monitoring responsibilities, the Commission may wish to consider requesting the Executive Director to ensure that reports synthesize and analyse information received, and, where possible, present trends, without reproducing the information in extenso. The full information should nevertheless be available to Governments upon request.

16. When requesting reports from the Executive Director, the Commission could reduce the documentation by permitting the Executive Director or his representatives to report orally to the Commission, although whether that would be appropriate or not may depend upon the nature of the subject matter.

17. The text of resolutions adopted by the Commission or forwarded to the Council at its thirty-sixth session amounted to some 31 pages of text. Of those 31 pages, 14 (nearly one half) were devoted to preambular paragraphs. While the importance of preambular paragraphs in resolutions is not in question, the Commission may wish to reduce the amount of preambular material in its resolutions.

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*In mid-1993, the cost of processing a single page of documentation in the six official languages of the United Nations was estimated at US$ 715.

18. The Commission may wish to re-examine the method and process of drafting its report with a view to reducing its volume, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 36/117 of 10 December 1981, 37/14 of 16 November 1982, and 43/222 of 21 December 1989, which address the question of limitation of documentation and establish a desirable limit of 32 pages for the reports of its intergovernmental bodies. The reports of the Commission have recently been seldom less than 100 pages.

C. Action by the Commission

19. The Commission is requested to review the recommendations made, and may wish to entrust a detailed examination of the matter to the Committee of the Whole.

V. CONSIDERATION OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL PLANS BY THE COMMISSION

20. There is a clear consensus among member States that the problems of illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse call for coordinated and balanced policies at national level. That in turn necessitates careful and thorough planning by the competent authorities.

21. A growing number of Governments, in both developed and developing countries, have prepared national drug control plans. At least 20 countries have adopted national drug control plans and some 25 others are in the process of drafting them.

22. To facilitate coordinated planning in drug control, UNDCP has developed and promoted the concept of national drug control plans, referred to as master plans. Such plans may bear different names in different countries, but they have certain basic characteristics in common. In general terms, a national drug control plan can be defined as the single document adopted by a Government outlining all national concerns in drug control, summarizing policies, defining priorities and assigning responsibilities for drug control efforts.

23. UNDCP has provided assistance in preparing national plans in a number of countries. In view of the growing interest in the idea, UNDCP has published a model format, accompanied by a set of guidelines for use in preparing national drug control plans.

24. The very process of drawing up a national plan has considerable value as a means of promoting concrete coordination in the drug control policy and activities of a country. It can be the starting-point for developing permanent coordinating machinery at the country level. In addition, it can provide the basis for a Government to assess whether or not measures taken have achieved their intended results.

25. At the international level, the national drug control plan can serve as a useful tool for the comparison of strategies, and can provide a basis on which to coordinate efforts at subregional, regional and global levels. That can be especially useful in drawing attention to the need for country-to-country cooperation, particularly within the context of subregional strategies.

26. The Commission may thus wish to devote greater attention to national master plans. In that connection, it may be noted that the Commission bears explicit responsibility for the monitoring of efforts by Governments to implement the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session on 23 February 1990,[1] as reflected in Assembly resolutions 45/148 of 18 December 1990, 46/102 of 16 December 1991 and 47/100 of 16 December 1992. In fact, all three resolutions contain almost identical wording, calling on the Commission "to promote and continuously monitor the implementation of the Global Programme of

Action". As national drug control plans represent a consolidated statement of the actions individual Governments are taking, they can be of considerable use as a means of monitoring what is being done in furtherance of the Global Programme of Action. While Governments at times make reference to their national plans in their statements during the general debate, such statements do not offer the opportunity to present them adequately, nor do they permit the Commission to consider them and to benefit from the plans elaborated and the experience acquired by national authorities.

27. Indeed, the ad hoc intergovernmental advisory group created as a result of Commission resolution 3 (XXXVII) of 21 April 1994 took up the question and recommended in its report that in order to foster the exchange of experiences and to enable the Commission to have up-to-date information, States should be encouraged to submit their national drug control plans (master plans) for consideration either by the Commission itself or by a working group established for that purpose.

28. As a first step towards the implementation of the above-mentioned recommendation, the Commission may therefore wish to include in the agenda for its thirty-ninth session a specific item under which national drug control plans could be considered. Given the time that will be required for the item, it may be preferable to entrust it to the Committee of the Whole. Based on the experience at the thirty-ninth session, the Commission could determine which option it would like to adopt for subsequent sessions, including the possibility of a working group as mentioned by the ad hoc intergovernmental advisory group.

29. In order to permit the degree of depth needed for fruitful consideration of national plans, the Commission may prefer to focus its attention on a small number of cases, at least initially. The consideration of one master plan per region would require an estimated two working days. Governments could volunteer to submit their plans. In order to permit the circulation as conference room papers of at least the executive summaries of the plans to be considered, the selection of countries should if possible be made well before the session of the Commission.

30. It would be helpful if each plan could be introduced at the meeting by a representative of the Government concerned, who should be from the drug control coordinating body or from another such institution bearing responsibility for the implementation of the plan. A question and answer session would follow, allowing members of the Committee of the Whole to seek further information and make observations on the plan in the light of the expert knowledge they possess.

31. Review by the Commission would not be meant to require Governments to amend their national plans, but rather to foster the exchange of experience and to enable the Commission to have up-to-date information.

Notes

[1]Resolution S-17/2, annex.